

Protect Hungry Families by Rejecting Cuts to SNAP

Please speak directly and/or write to congressional leadership, and in particular with House Agriculture Committee Chairman Michael Conaway and Ranking Member Collin Peterson or Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman Pat Roberts and Ranking Member Debbie Stabenow, urging them to **strongly oppose cuts to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly food stamps)** during budget negotiations.

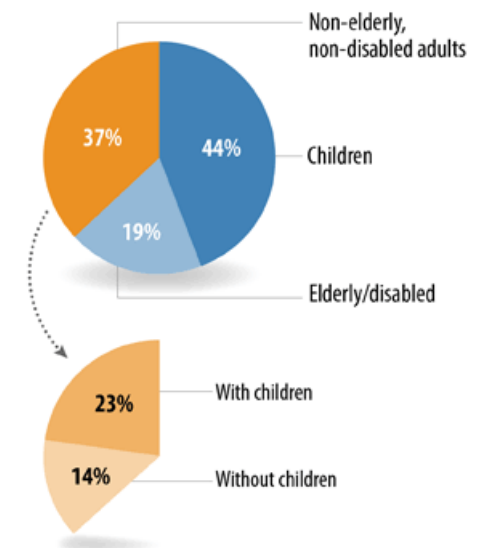
SNAP (Formerly Food Stamps) is a Lifeline for Millions

Because of low wages and the ongoing impact of the Great Recession, millions of Americans are struggling to put food on the table. In 2013, more than **1 in 5 children in the U.S. were at risk of going to bed hungry every night** (21 percent). Studies show that children who are regularly hungry suffer from weakened immune systems, slowed and abnormal growth, and anemia. Children in families that do not struggle against hunger tend to be healthier, while young children from food-insecure households are two-thirds more likely to be at risk of developmental problems than those from households with enough to eat.

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly food stamps) is the first line of defense against hunger in America. Currently, over 45 million people — almost half of them children — receive SNAP benefits. SNAP lifted almost 5 million people out of poverty in 2013 (US Census). Nearly 90 percent of SNAP participants are in households that contain a child under age 18, an elderly person 60 years or older, or a disabled individual. SNAP has been found to significantly reduce hunger and poor health in children.

SNAP helps working families make ends meet and get on their feet. More than half of SNAP households with at least one working-age, non-disabled adult, and more than 60 percent of households with children, work while participating in SNAP. SNAP is also structured as a work incentive: for every additional dollar a SNAP recipient earns, her SNAP benefits decline by only 24 to 36 cents. Families that receive SNAP thus have a strong incentive to work more hours or search for better-paying jobs. Finally, SNAP is one of the most efficiently run programs, with 99 percent of benefits going to eligible households.

Close to Two-Thirds of SNAP Recipients Are Children, Elderly, or Disabled



Source: CBPP tabulations of USDA 2013 SNAP household characteristics data.

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Cuts to SNAP Will Hurt Vulnerable Families

Despite the importance of SNAP for millions of families and recent completion of the Farm Bill (which already included cuts to SNAP), **we are very concerned that Congress may look again to make deep cuts to SNAP and/or severely restrict eligibility as a part of the budget process.** This could force millions deeper into poverty. As Juell, one of the Witnesses to Hunger, notes, “My daughter has allergies. Cuts to SNAP mean even more of a struggle to make sure she gets the food she needs.” Let’s not compromise the health and well-being of America’s families by once again cutting SNAP.